

may, perhaps, be found there, being an aquatic and not subject to certain topographic disturbances, which would extinguish all things terrestrial.

While little is said about Lycopods and ferns — we find this intensely interesting note concerning *Lygodium palmatum*, Swartz., my own station for which is South Scituate, R. I.

“*Lygodium palmatum* — abundant on banks of Tar Kiln River, near Douglas Turnpike, R. I., July 4, 1834.” It would be well worth while to look up this long-forgotten locality — and then, in the interests of science, again to forget it!

BROWN UNIVERSITY,

### DICKSONIA PILOSIUSCULA, var. CRISTATA.

GEORGE E. DAVENPORT.

HAVING recently visited the type station for *Dicksonia pilosiuscula*, Willd., var. **cristata** (*Daenstedia punctilobula cristata*, Maxon) in company with Mr. F. G. Floyd, who first brought this fern to notice, I have been able gradually to recall quite clearly the circumstances under which I saw it for the first time in 1873. I had not at that time taken up the study of ferns, but was more interested in the flowering plants, consequently I did not pay that attention to this form of the *Dicksonia* that I otherwise should have done, and the circumstance itself passed out of my mind until Mr. Floyd's discovery recalled it.

I had been botanizing on the Great Blue Hill in company with the late veteran botanist, Mr. E. H. Hitchings, and, while following one of the brook ravines down from the summit of the hill, we came across this patch of bifid and crested *Dicksonia*. I now recall very clearly our stopping sometime to look at it, and commenting on the somewhat unusual occurrence, but, as we were after other things, and as neither of us at the time had any special interest in ferns, we made no collection of it, and I imagine it passed out of Mr. Hitchings' mind as it did out of my own.

The variation is interesting and difficult to account for. The plants are restricted to a small area, and the variety is intermixed with the normal form in such a manner as to suggest their both being attached to the same rootstock. Mr. Floyd and I, however, took up

very carefully several clumps in order to investigate this, but in each case they separated readily into two distinct plants, the normal form being on one rootstock, and the variety on the other.

My object in publishing this note is to show that there is every presumption in favor of believing that the form has persisted in maintaining its character for more than twenty-five years, long enough surely to justify recognizing it as a permanent variation from the normal character of the species.

It is not so easy, however, to account for the variation, as there is absolutely nothing in the plant's environments to suggest an explanation, both forms being closely intermingled, and therefore exposed to precisely the same conditions; probably at least one half of the whole patch showing bifid and crested apices to the fronds and pinnae.

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## NEW STATION FOR THE DWARF MISTLETOE.

J. C. ARTHUR.

THE remarkable number of recent coincident finds of the dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium pusillum* Peck) reported in the January RHODORA of this year, makes the discovery of another New England station in itself of small moment. It was my good fortune this past summer, however, to chance upon a more luxuriant and abundant development of the plants than any so far recorded. It was while spending some weeks at Isle au Haut, Maine, that I came one day upon a portion of forest along the shore, of a few acres in extent, composed almost entirely of white and black spruces in about equal proportion, which presented an exceedingly novel and almost fantastic appearance. The general effect was that of an abandoned Italian garden, with its once compact and well clipped forms, now ragged and partly dead. Here and there witches' brooms of characteristic form, from a foot to three feet in diameter, were prominent, but it was the transformation of whole trees from the smallest size to thirty or forty feet in height into solid individual "brooms" that produced the strangest effect. Trees ten to fifteen feet high and of two-thirds that diameter were most numerous, and were formed of a close growth of slender branches from the ground to the rounded summit, the usual pyramidal form being entirely lost.